

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. Claims 22, 33, 42, and 44 have been amended. Claims 1-21, 23-32, and 34-39 have been canceled herein. Claims 40-41 were previously canceled. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuing application on the canceled claims. Claims 22, 33, and 42-44 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow.

1. Amendment to the Drawings

Replacement Figure 1 is presented herewith to replace Figures 1A and 1B previously submitted and to replace original Figure 1. Replacement Figure 1 a better version of Figure 1 than was originally submitted and then scanned by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

2. Objection to the Amendments to the Specification

The Specification has been amended to delete the reference to Figures 1-A and 1B and replace it with reference to Figure 1. This is done solely to expedite prosecution of the application. Withdrawal of the objection to the Specification is requested.

3. Rejections Under §112, First Paragraph and Second Paragraph

Claims 19-35 and 40-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1, as failing to meet the written description requirement and under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being indefinite. Claims 19-21, 23-32, 34-35, and 40-41 have been canceled solely to expedite prosecution of the application. The submission of Replacement Figure 1 overcomes the rejection of claims 22 and 33, which are the only pending claims under these rejections. In light of the new figure presented and the cancellation of claims 19-21, 23-32, 34-35, and 40-41, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

4. Rejections Based on the Prior Art

Claims 19-28, 30-35, and 40 stand rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by and/or under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tannock et al., Krause et al., Benoit et al., Coventry et al., Schutz, Lewus et al, Craig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,795,602), and Iritani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,090,416), either alone or in combination. The Examiner now indicates that claims 22, 33,

and 42-44 would be allowable upon submission of a better version of Figure 1 and amendments to claims 42 and 44. Applicants submit herewith a better version of Figure 1 and have made the Examiner recommended amendments. The remaining, non-allowable claims have been canceled solely to expedite prosecution of the application. Withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

5. Allowable Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 22, 33, and 42-44 would be allowable upon submission of a better version of Figure 1 and amendments to claims 42 and 44 is. As noted above, both of these conditions have been met.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that claims 22, 33, and 42-44 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102, and 103 and each define patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 23-2053 for \$165, which is the difference between the fee associated with a two (2)-month extension and a one (1)-month extension, which the applicants previously paid for. The Applicants hereby request a two (2)-month extension. No other fee is believed to be payable with this communication. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any other fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the Director is authorized to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-2053.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite matters.

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Respectfully submitted,

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